

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 04412 201536Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-01 DHA-02 PRS-01
SCA-01 SCS-01 VO-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-02 H-01 /039 W
-----130466 201552Z /40

O 201428Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4928
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 4412

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF CVIS KE ET

SUBJ: ASYLUM REQUEST: ETHIOPIAN ROYAL FAMILY

REF: A. NAIROBI 9134, B. ADDIS ABABA 1744 (NOTAL),
C. ADDIS ABABA 1807 (NOTAL), D. STATE 66906 (NOTAL),
E. STATE 068798 (NOTAL), F. ADDIS ABABA 3454 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE REPEATED REFS (B)-(E) TO NAIROBI FOR BACKGROUND
INFO AND SUGGEST EMBASSY NAIROBI BE MOST CAUTIOUS IN DEALING
WITH BOTH COLLINS WHO DESPITE OUR OWN EFFORTS, THOSE OF DEPT,
AND THOSE OF THEIR OWN HEADQUARTERS, CLEARLY NEVER HAD ANY
INTENTION OF GIVING UP THEIR ORIGINAL PLAN.

2. FROM OUR STANDPOINT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ANYTHING THAT
IS DONE NOW BE DONE IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY. IF JUNE 16-17 DATES
ARE CORRECT, DISAPPEARANCE OF CHILDREN IS UNDOUBTEDLY KNOWN
TO EPMG, BUT THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE MAKE CONNECTION BETWEEN
THEIR DISAPPEARANCE AND COLLINS WHO UNTIL FEW DAYS AGO
WAS RESTRICTED TO ADDIS BY EPMG SECURITY FORCES FOR A
DIFFERENT REASON. IF CORRECT DATES ARE JULY 16 AND 17,

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04412 201536Z

WE CAN ONLY ASSUME COLLINS ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN TO KENYA
AND MAY WELL HAVE LEFT ETHIOPIA ILLEGALLY HIMSELF. (BY
CHANCE WE TRIED TO REACH COLLINS BY PHONE THIS MORNING
FOR ANOTHER MATTER AND WERE TOLD BY HIS OFFICE THAT HE
OUTSIDE OF CITY IN ETHIOPIA AND WIL BE BACK NEXT WEEK.) SHOULD
CONNECTION BE MADE BETWEEN COLLINS AND CHILDREN'S DIS-
APPEARANCE, MISSIONARY COMMUNITY HERE COULD FACE SERIOUS

TROUBLE, A POINT WHICH WAS APPARENTLY OF NO CONCERN TO COLLINS FAMILY.

3. IN DIFFERENT TERMS, CHANCE OF REPRISALS AGAINST PRISONERS HERE, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE CONCERNED COLLINS EITHER, IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE, BUT THAT WE CANNOT YET JUDGE. FINALLY, SHOULD IT BECOME KNOWN TO ETHIOPIANS THAT CHILDREN HAVE GONE TO STATES AS ASYLEES, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO COPE WITH STILL ANOTHER ADVERSE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. THUS SECRECY IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY NOW AND AT EVERY STAGE OF THIS CASE INCLUDING RESETTLEMENT IN STATES IF DEPT AGREES TO ACCEPT THEM, AND DEPT SHOULD SAY SO TO CONGRESSMAN FRENZEL. COLLINS COUPLE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT MUCH CARE ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR ACTIONS, BUT SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND TO IMPRESS UPON THEM AS WELL, THAT ANY PUBLICITY COULD BE HARMFUL TO MANY PEOPLE AND TO OUR OWN RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. THAT WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH EXFILTRATION WILL MEAN NOTHING ONCE USG BECOMES PARTY TO ACTION BY GRANTING ASYLUM. INDEED, IF IT WERE AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE WOULD PREFER THAT ASYLUM NOT BE GRANTED AND THAT NORMAL PROCEDURE BE FOLLOWED.

5. IF COLLINS IS INDEED IN KENYA, WE WOULD LIKE TO
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PAGE 03 ADDIS 04412 201536Z

KNOW WHETHER ANOTHER BAPTIST MISSIONARY, RICHARD S. KONNERUP, WHO WAS WITH COLLINS HERE, IS ALSO IN KENYA. WE THINK HE IS STILL HERE, AND IF SO, AND IF ETHIOPIANS FIND OUT COLLINS CONNECTION WITH EXFILTRATION, KONNERUP COULD BE IN TROUBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, MONARCHY, DEPENDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS04412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770257-1128
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770740/aaaabihf.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3b3b0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 NAIROBI 9134, 77 ADDIS ABABA 1744, 77 ADDIS ABABA 1807, 77 STATE 66906
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1811751
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASYLUM REQUEST: ETHIOPIAN ROYAL FAMILY
TAGS: SREF, CVIS, KE, ET, US
To: STATE NAIROBI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b3b0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009